

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A sensor configuration for use in detecting ink droplets ejected from an ink drop generator, comprising:

a non-contact electrically biased sensing target, wherein the sensing target is configured to receive a biasing voltage which creates an electric field from the sensing target to the ink drop generator; and

a sensing amplifier coupled to the sensing target via a sensing conductor, whereby the sensing target is imparted with an electrical stimulus generated by a capacitive current related to a charge on an ink droplet created by the electric field, wherein the capacitive current is created when the charged ink droplet strikes a printing medium.

28. (Canceled)

29.-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A printing mechanism, comprising:

a printhead having ink drop generators for selectively ejecting ink; and

an ink drop sensor for detecting ink droplets ejected from the ink drop generators, comprising:

a non-contact electrically biased sensing target, wherein the sensing target is configured to receive a biasing voltage which creates an electric field from the sensing target to the ink drop generators; and

a sensing amplifier coupled to the sensing target via a sensing conductor, whereby the sensing target is imparted with an electrical stimulus generated by a capacitive current related to a charge on an ink droplet created by the electric field,

wherein the capacitive current is created when the charged ink droplet strikes a printing medium.

45. (Canceled)

46.-70. (Canceled)